JV with KVIC

1109. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN:
SHRI B.J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) have joined hands to promote khadi and village industries in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain potential projects have been identified under Joint Venture (JV) to improve rural economy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating those that are located in Orissa and Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and KVIC have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on 4 August, 2008 to work jointly towards the Rural Business Hubs in rural areas by converging PMEGP, SFURTI and other schemes of KVIC. It is expected that such joint working will help generate employment as well as higher and sustained income for rural producers through better marketing and convergence of schemes of KVIC with Panchayats. Joint working arrangement will be operational for a period of three years from the date of signing of the MoC.

(c) and (d) Under the MoC, Panchayats can propose viable projects under the PMEGP scheme of KVIC which will be placed before the District Level Task Force in which there will be three members representing Panchayats. Though this arrangement is operational in all PMEGP districts, special attention will be given in RBH focus districts. Phulbani and Koraput and Ranchi and Deoghar are the RBH focus districts in Orissa and Jharkhand respectively.

KVIC has supported 118 clusters under their SFURTI scheme. Under the MoC it is proposed to extend marketing linkages to these clusters. Beekeeping cluster, Chamoli (Uttarakhand), Bamboo cluster, Kalpetta (Kerala) and Bamboo cluster, Mizoram have been identified is pilot clusters for such intervention.

Raising of retirement age

1110. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has done any exercise on proposals to raise the age of retirement of Government servants;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) whether Government has studied the pattern of employment in other countries; and

(d) the details of the proposal, the status of this proposal and reasons for mooting this proposal?